

of which his last act was but the crowning grace. We accept him as the type of what an English gentleman should be. He hated anything that was sordid and mean."¹ Sidney, himself, in Arcadia expresses the qualities possessed by an ideal gentleman, Palladius, "A mind of most excellent composition, a piercing wit, quite void of ostentation, high erected thoughts seated in a heart of courtesy, an eloquence as sweet in the uttering as slow to come to the uttering, a behavior so noble as gave majesty to adversity, and all in a man whose age could not be above one and twenty years."² These few excerpts suffice to portray the value placed by the sixteenth century upon the character and worth of the gentleman. Chesterfield, too, held moral virtues in high esteem, although in his correspondence to Stanhope in his teen age, Chesterfield conforms to the eighteenth century standard of conduct. In the early letters, however, he makes it very clear that he wishes his son to form only praiseworthy habits and traits and to adopt correct principles of thought and conduct. In Letter LXVIII, he writes in true sixteenth century spirit, "You would find then, that virtue consists in doing good, and in speaking truth, that the effects of it are advantageous to all mankind, and to one's self in particular. Virtue makes us pity and relieve the misfortunes of mankind; it makes us promote justice and good order in society; and in general, contributes to whatever tends to the real good of mankind. To ourselves it gives an inward comfort and satisfaction,

1. Arcadia, Intro., p. XV.

2. op. cit., p. 16.